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(54) A method for reducing power consumed by a computer.

(57) A low power management system monitors software application programs for keyboard activity so as to turn off the microprocessor in the computer in response to a loop (10,16) looking for a keypress and certain other loops which can be monitored without use of the microprocessor.

A low power management system including both hardware (Figure 2) and software (Figure 5) is provided for a battery powered portable computer (not shown). The low power management system powers down various sections (10,12,16,21,24) of the com-

puter (DMA, VCO, DISPLAY, UART) when they are not used. The low power management system is controlled by a control program directing the microprocessor (40) (Figure 2) of the computer, and includes the capability to turn off clock signals (not shown) to the various sections of the computer based upon demand. Also included is the capability to turn on clock signals based upon demand. The low power management system also includes the capability to turn on the computer upon a press of a key on the computer keyboard.

EP 0 675 425 A3

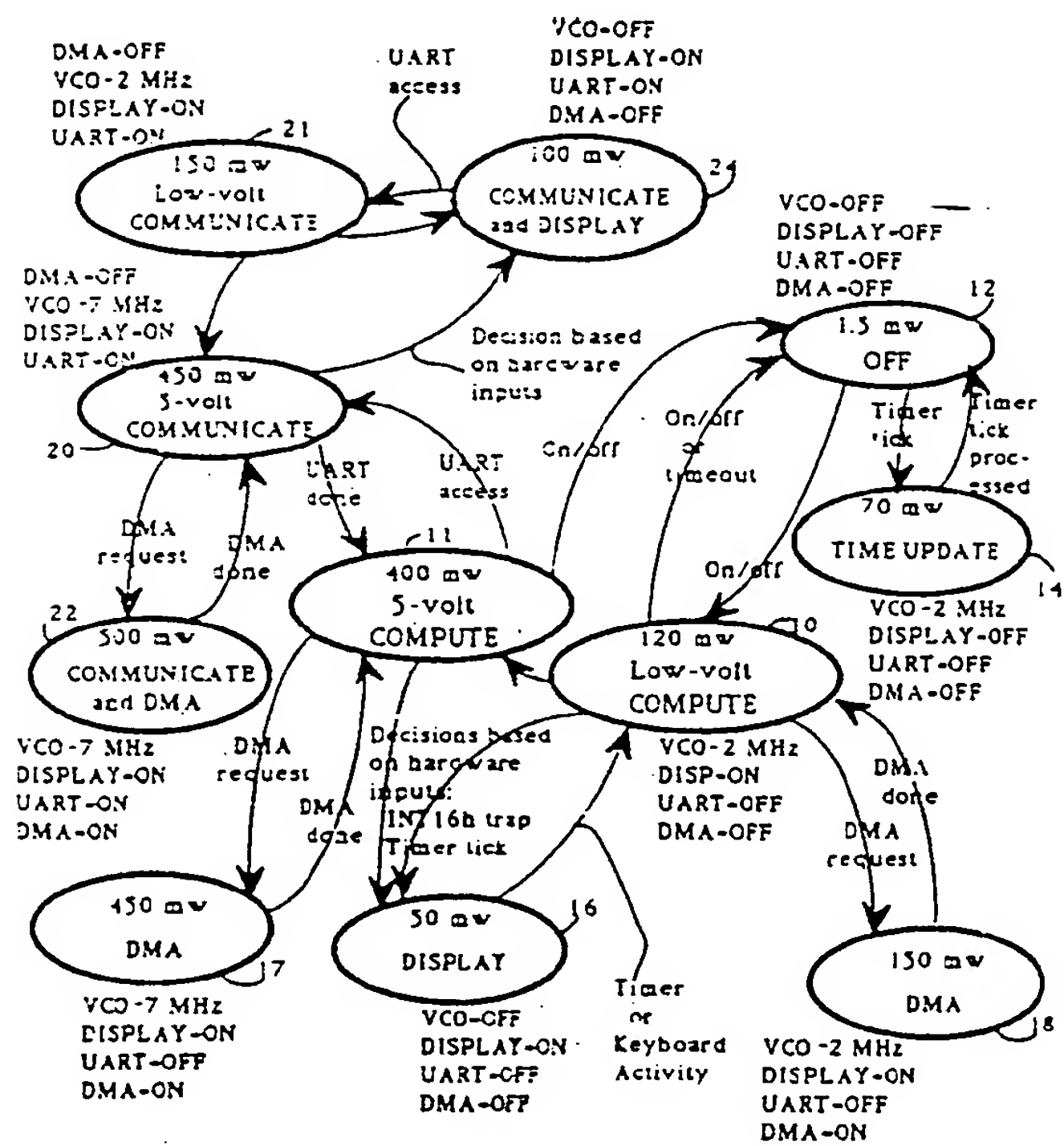


Figure 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
Y	EP-A-0 303 020 (SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 15 February 1989 * column 2, line 18 - line 45; figure 2 * ---	13,16,18	G06F1/32 G06F1/08
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008 no. 008 (E-221) ,13 January 1984 & JP-A-58 171842 (MATSUSHITA DENSHI KOGYO KK) 8 October 1983, * abstract * ---	13,16,18	
A	HEWLETT-PACKARD JOURNAL, vol. 37, no. 7, July 1986 PALO ALTO US, pages 4-13, EATON J. T. 'Design of HP's Portable Computer Entity' * page 10, left column, line 1 - page 11, left column, line 34 * ---	1,4,5,7, 8,10,11	
P,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014 no. 321 (P-1074) ,10 July 1990 & JP-A-02 105213 (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 17 April 1990, * abstract * -----	13,18	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 September 1995	Examiner Bailas, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			